

TOWN COUNCIL WORK SESSION MINUTES
Teleconference via GoToMeeting
Friday, June 24, 2022
3:30pm

Mayor Paulin, Vice Mayor Sitoula and Councilwoman Grumbine met in work session via teleconference on Friday, June 24, 2022. Also, in attendance were Town Manager Ryan Hicks and Town Clerk Andrea Brady.

Town Meetings – Mayor Paulin suggested alternating virtual and in person town meetings to gauge the participation level or decide to do a quarterly in person with the regular monthly meeting virtually. Mayor Paulin expressed concern over the lack of attendance in person. Vice Mayor Sitoula was in support of alternating but suggested we may need to invest in technology that allows a hybrid option making it understood that in that instance the virtual attendees would be in an observation capacity only. Mayor Paulin agreed that is something they should look into in the future when improved technology is available since the primary issue is the internet access. Councilwoman Grumbine asked how the quarterly option would work. Mayor Paulin explained that every third meeting would be in person with the option to hold additional meetings in person depending on the agenda items with the example of an introduction of an Ordinance at a virtual meeting with the adoption in person. The Council agreed to move forward with holding in person meetings quarterly with the option to hold additional in person meetings as needed. The July Town meeting will be in person with virtual meetings to start in August.

BZA – With the Town’s continued issues with filling boards, committee, and commissions, legal counsel had previously provided advice on how to address that concern with the Board of Zoning Appeals. After reviewing legal counsel’s suggestions and the Zoning Administrator’s suggestion, the Council will change the Board of Zoning Appeals required members from 5 to 3.

CCSO Agreement for Municipal Enforcement – Town Manager Hick’s gave an overview of the Town’s existing agreement for additional Town patrols and suggested the Town should increase the amount paid for these patrols. All officers will be provided a copy of the agreement to show they are able to enforce municipal citations (DC-28), which the officers already have access to. Town Manager Hicks suggested increasing the rate to \$60 an hour, Council agreed.

Grocery Store Update – Mrs. Steele of RXBSA provided an update on the grocery store project. Site work and development plans continue. Building design and architectural plans are still in progress. They are continuing to build momentum on funding resources with a recent award of \$200,000 from the USDA’s Healthy Food Financing Initiative. They are collaborating with the owners/developers of the Cobb Island Public Market, and they are on target for a project opening in 2023.

RXBSA Request for Utility Abatement: 4085 Indian Head Highway – RXBSA has requested abatement of the utility bill for 4085 Indian Head Highway. There has been a leak at the property for the past 3 years. Town Manager Hicks suggested not completely abating the water usage but reducing it down to the base rate since they have had work done to address the issue. The Council agreed with Town Manager Hick’s suggestion.

July Town Meeting Agenda – A resolution to initiate the application to rezone 202-206 Blair Road will be added to the agenda.

Roundtable:

Mayor – None

Vice Mayor – Vice Mayor Sitoula thanks staff for a smooth registration for the MML conference. Vice Mayor Sitoula also passed on the thanks for the mayor he met on his recent trip, and he discussed the things he learned from his trip including their taxing structure. Town memorabilia made it to the top of Mount Kilimanjaro.

Councilwoman – Councilwoman Grumbine asked about the partnership meeting with Charles County Public Library. Town Clerk Brady informed Council she is still waiting to hear from 2 members of the Board to finalize the date and time.

Town Manager – The trash contract will be signed by June 30th and will begin picking up on July 5th. All residential pickup will be done on Tuesdays and Fridays. Frank Gatchell has requested recognition for the swim team, the Indian Head Torpedoes, and they have requested sponsorship from the Town. Council was in agreement for the recognition and sponsorship. Town Manager Hicks will reach out for additional information.

Town Clerk – None

Mayor Paulin adjourned the meeting at 3:55pm.


Andrea Brady, Town Clerk